

We originally set up a steering committee to facilitate the organizing of the initial Woodward's action.

The goal of this action was to draw attention to the fact that the Campbell gov't was close to selling Woodward's, yet denying it.

Our intention was to put the need for social housing in Woodward's, and indeed across the province, back on the provincial agenda.

We hoped to be able to engage in proper communication with the Campbell gov't around the resolution of these issues.

It was determined at that time that we would incorporate as a society in the near future.

We were surprised, and in fact shocked, by the number of homeless and under housed people who rallied around the Woodward's building, in support of our call for social housing, and in many instances in a personal effort to find security, housing and community for themselves.

When we saw the homeless encampment grow from 15 people to over 150 in a week, we knew that it was essential to ask the two government's to immediately address the HOMELESS issue in the city, and indeed, across the province, and to come up with a long term strategy around HOMELESSNESS which includes SOCIAL HOUSING.

Over the past 6 weeks neither Gordon Campbell, George Abbott or other backbenchers have been willing to meet with us and in fact, only Val Anderson has shown enough respect to return our calls.

We have the distinct impression that the Campbell government is hiding behind the homeless rather, than being open & accessible.

For this reason we have started procedure to incorporate as a charitable society.

We will be around for a long time.

And we would like to take this opportunity to let the Liberal government know that we are willing to meet with them whenever and where ever they choose.

We have further decided to concentrate our efforts on getting the different levels of government to the table to come up with a strategy for providing adequate social housing.

We are looking into legal action which can be taken to force this provincial government to honor its obligations to provide social housing to those who most need it.

We believe these rights are clearly defined in the Law Sheet included in your handouts.

We additionally are intending to compile the record of violations of the rights and bring them to the attention of the International Olympic committee.

We will continue to support the Woodward's Squatters and specifically will help the homeless in their efforts to organize their own community structure, thereby, helping them to become masters of their own destiny.

Turn over to Bev Jones